EXCISE

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ETHERIDGE CAROLYN R 02/09/82 142656 PRINTER: LI
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PAGE 01 SEOUL 25299 01 OF 02 282022Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /071 W

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P 280850Z APR 82
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5906
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//FJ-IS
CEJUSMAG SEOUL KS
SA CINCUNC KS
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 25299
E.O. 12356: GDS 4/28/88 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KS, KN, US
SUBJECT: KIM DAE JUNG HINTS AT HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT
REF: SEOUL 04821

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: KIM DAE JUNG HAS SPOKEN PUBLICLY TWICE MORE SINCE HIS SPEECH TO THE HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY APRIL 16 (REFTEL). DURING THOSE SPEECHES HE HAS CONTINUED HIS CRITICISM OF THE NDP (ALTHOUGH HE STILL TERMS THE PARTY AN "ALLY"), AND ON APRIL 25 SAID THAT HE HAD NOT DISCARDED THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A NEW PARTY. KIM CLEARLY WANTS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT. HE HAS SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RETROACTIVE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO ILLEGALLY AMASSED FORTUNES UNDER PRESIDENT PARK, AND THAT BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE PROPERLY CONTRITE COULD HELP KOREA MOVE FORWARD ECONOMICALLY. KIM REMAINS A POPULAR SPEAKER, ALTHOUGH 200 STUDENTS AT A UNIVERSITY WHERE HE SPOKE CRITICIZED THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF HIS ADDRESS. WE BELIEVE KIM HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT FORMING A NEW PARTY. END SUMMARY.

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3. KIM DAE JUNG (K-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) HAS EDGED CLOSER TOWARD A CLEAR-CUT DECLARATION OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT, POSSIBLY AS THE LEADER OF A NEW PARTY, IN TWO RECENT SPEECHES. SPEAKING AT TONGGUK UNIVERSITY APRIL 18, KIM REAFFIRMED THAT OUT-OF-OFFICE DISSIDENTS ARE THE "CORE OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES". IN THE SECOND SPEECH ON APRIL 25 TO THE KWANEUM CLUB, A SENIOR JOURNALISTS' ORGANIZATION, KIM SAID THAT HE "HAS AN AMBITION TO BE PRESIDENT", BUT WOULD NOT ANNOUNCE HIS FINAL DECISION UNTIL THE GOVERN-

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Tagle DATE 8/19/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 25299 02 OF 02 280929Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 E-01 INR-10
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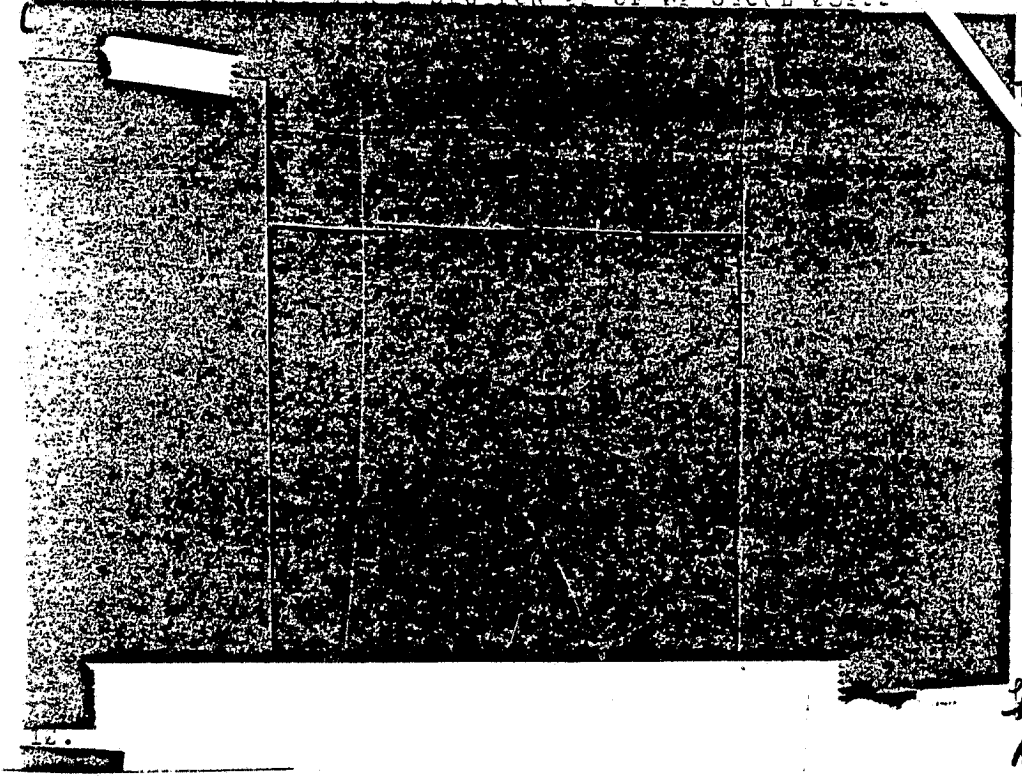
P 280850Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5907
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//EJ-IS
CEJUSMAG SEOUL KS
SA CINCUNC KS
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SEOUL 25299



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MENT MADE ITS POLITICAL TIMETABLE CLEAR.
4. KIM, WHILE CALLING THE NDP AN "ALLY", SAID AT TONGKUK THAT HIS OLD PARTY HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY HUMBLE IN TAKING DISSIDENTS INTO THE PARTY. HE ALSO SAID DURING HIS KWANHUN SPEECH THAT THE NDP HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING IN ITS POST-PRESIDENT PARK ACTIVITIES. THE NDP HAS BEEN CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THE OCTOBER 26 INCIDENT, "BUT I DIFFER WITH THAT OPINION. I DO NOT DENY 100 PERCENT THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A NEW PARTY", SAID KIM, ADDING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS BEFORE DECIDING.
5. KIM SAID IN BOTH SPEECHES THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION TO PUNISH THOSE WHO HAD AMASSED ILLEGAL WEALTH UNDER THE PARK REGIME. THERE ARE TWO CLASSES IN THIS GROUP -- THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THOSE IN BUSINESS. THE GOVERNMENT GROUP SHOULD BE PUNISHED.
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ALTHOUGH THE STATUS OF ALL HONEST OFFICIALS, EXCLUDING THOSE OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SHOULD BE GUARANTEED, EVEN IF THERE IS A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. KIM SAID AT TONGKUK THAT "CONSCIENTIOUS AND REMORSEFUL" BUSINESSMEN WHO REPENTED OF PAST WRONGS SHOULD JOIN THOSE OF GOOD CONSCIENCE IN WORKING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
6. IN HIS KWANHUN SPEECH, KIM CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT MAKING ITS INTENTIONS ON A POLITICAL TIMETABLE CLEAR AND SAID HE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT AN "UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT" IF CLARIFICATION IS NOT FORTHCOMING. CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND ELECTIONS (PRESIDENTIAL AND ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY) SHOULD ALL BE HELD WITHIN CALENDAR 1982. HOWEVER, HE IS WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR IF THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS THE DELAY.
7. ON OTHER POINTS, KIM EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF NORTH KOREA IN BOTH SPEECHES, AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR MULTI-LATERAL DIPLOMACY. HE ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN GOOD POINTS TO PRESIDENT PARK'S REGIME, WHICH HE SAID HAD GIVEN THE PEOPLE "CONFIDENCE". HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT MENTIONED HIS CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AT THE KWANHUN SPEECH BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF MANY NON-CHRISTIANS. HOWEVER, THOUGHTS OF CHRIST WERE IN HIS HEART AS HE SPOKE.
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